

State of Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

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## Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group Releases First Final Restoration Plan

Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), along with the other state and federal agencies of the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group, announces the release of its "Final Restoration Plan #1," which selects restoration projects to continue to address injuries to natural resources in Louisiana caused by the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. This is the first Louisiana natural resource restoration plan to be released since the Natural Resource Damage Assessment settlement was approved on April 4, 2016. "Approval of this plan is a significant step forward for Louisiana, and establishes a solid path forward of coastal restoration projects to restore damages from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill." said Johnny Bradberry, Executive Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Activities.

The final restoration plan allocates \$22.3 million in *Deepwater Horizon* settlement funds to advance engineering and design on six coastal restoration projects intended to restore for damages to Louisiana wetlands, coastal, and nearshore habitats; in addition to habitat on federally managed lands; and bird habitat:

- Terrebonne Basin Ridge and Marsh Creation Project: Bayou Terrebonne Increment
- Barataria Basin Ridge and Marsh Creation Project: Spanish Pass Increment
- Lake Borgne Marsh Creation Project: Increment One
- Shoreline Protection at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve
- Oueen Bess Island Restoration Project
- Rabbit Island Restoration Project

"We are eager to begin Engineering and Design work for these projects, which once constructed will address rapid restoration of habitats along the Louisiana coast", says Michael Ellis, CPRA Executive Director.

The final restoration plan can be accessed online at <a href="www.la-dwh.com">www.la-dwh.com</a> or <a href="www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/louisiana">www.la-dwh.com</a> or <a href="www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/louisiana">www.la-dwh.com</a> or <a href="www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/louisiana">www.la-dwh.com</a> or <a href="www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/louisiana">www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/louisiana</a>.

In total, over \$5 billion from the *Deepwater Horizon* settlement has been allocated for restoration of natural resource damages in Louisiana over the next 15 years, including over \$368 million in early restoration projects selected by the Trustees before the settlement. Some examples of early restoration projects that have been implemented or are currently in construction include marsh creation at Lake Hermitage, oyster cultch plantings, and barrier island restoration projects. More details on Louisiana's



early restoration projects can be found at <a href="http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration/early-restoration">http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration/early-restoration</a>.

The Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group consists of the five Louisiana state agencies and four federal agencies responsible for identifying *Deepwater Horizon* natural resource restoration opportunities in Louisiana: the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority; the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources; the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality; the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office; the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; the United States Department of Commerce, represented by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; the United States Department of the Interior, represented by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service; the United States Department of Agriculture; and the Environmental Protection Agency.

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